Special care is needed on this point in localities where the supply of grazing is so large that there is little demand for the road-side grass. In these cases it may even be better not to sell the grass at all; but where the demand for grass is great, sales should invariably be made as otherwise the unrestricted grazing is likely to result in serious injury to the trees.

Conditions of sale of grass

21. Contracts for the sale of grass must provide (1) that the grass shall either be cut with a sickle or grazed off the road and that the khurpi must not be used; (2) that the contractor is responsible for all damage caused by animals to trees on the roads which he has taken. Where the roads have young trees a penalty of a reasonable sum, as liquidated damages, should be fixed for each tree destroyed during the period of the contract.

CHAPTER XII

GROVES

Encamping grounds

1. Shade should be provided as far as possible on encamping grounds, especially on the roads where there is a large pilgrim traffic. The system of planting should be generally similar to that indicated for avenues, except that as many lines should be planted as there is room for, and that the lines should be the same distance apart as the trees in the line. Trees giving thick shade should be preferred, but the tamarind should not be planted in ordinary circumstances as there is a prejudice against sleeping under it.

Groves on barren roads

2. Endeavours should be made to plant groves of trees at intervals along lengths of road where the soil is barren and avenues cannot be expected to succeed. The need of shade is greater on these roads than anywhere else. The least barren patches of ground on the roadside should be picked out with the assistance of practical cultivators living in the neighbourhood; the presence of Hariali grass almost always indicates a patch of better land. Where a patch appears to be suitable, a hole

should be dug in it to depth of four or five feet and the nature of the sub-soil carefully examined; if it is stiff clay down to five feet, there is little prospect of getting trees to grow, but if loam or sand is met with by that depth there is a good chance of success and the patch may be chosen for operations.

Special methods of planting on barren land

3. The work of planting such patches differs from that indicated in previous chapters in the following respects :—

(1) The holes for trees should be closer together as they will not spread to the same extent : about two-thirds of the distance apart recommended for loam is a fair general rule.

(2) The holes should be dug down to the loam or sand; the clay taken out of them should not be returned, but should be thrown aside and the holes should be filled with good loam obtained from a better part of the roadside, or (on payment) from an adjoining field.

(3) Special attention is needed to see that the trees are not exposed to the danger of water-logging, as these barren tracts frequently tend to become swampy in the rains.

(4) More frequent irrigation and tillage of the surface will probably be necessary.

(5) No attempt should be made to grow delicate trees; hardy trees such as the nim are the likeliest to succeed.

(6) If the road is not well supplied with water, a masonry well should be sunk among the trees if any pious person can be induced to confer this benefit on the public : a well with a clump of even half a dozen trees giving a little shade will be sure of the cordial appreciation of travellers.

(7) It will be obvious that the planting of clumps of trees on barren road-sides will cost more than the same number of trees on fertile soil, so that when there is much planting to be done on loam it should have the preference; but, where most of the unplanted roads are on barren soil, endeavours should be made to provide a certain amount of shade on them as suggested above.